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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,403	06/24/2003	Dave Anderson	60027.0195US01/BS# 030100	3391
36262 7590 02/04/2008 MERCHANT & GOULD BELL SOUTH CORPORATION P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402				
EXAMINER CUMARASEGARAN, VERN				
ART UNIT 3629		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/603,403

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

VERN CUMARASEGARAN

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 June 2003.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/3/2003
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-9 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites "providing a set of verbal questions..." but it is unclear as to whom the questions are provided to. Similarly, the claim also recites "receiving verbal answers..." but it is unclear as to who receives the answers. Examiner interpreted these elements as providing a set of verbal questions to user and an automation mechanism receiving the verbal answers.

Claim 24 recites "...information and directors to the real estate..." It should read "...information and *directions* to the real estate..."

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. Claim 1 recites posting the listing data without clarifying where the data is posted. Appropriate correction as to where the customers can access the posted data should be made to the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owners.com (see PTO-892 V) in view of Raiyani et al. (US 2004/0181461 A1).

As to claim 1, Owners.com shows providing a set of verbal questions about a real estate listing corresponding to the question data (*where in order for buyers to get information about a property question about the property must have been provided. Verbal questions are interpreted to be questions composed of words*); receiving verbal answers to the set of verbal questions ("Owners Answering Service") from real estate seller, interpreting the received answers to produce listing data and posting the listing data for access by real estate customers (*where answers regarding the listing data given by the answering service would be accessible to potential buyers*).

However, Owners.com does not expressly show providing question data by a voice service node nor providing verbal questions over a voiced call. However, Raiyani et al. show providing question data to a voice service node and providing verbal questions over a voiced call (paragraph 110).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify owner.com and incorporate providing of verbal questions over a voiced call because it is within the

capabilities of one of ordinary skill in the art provide verbal questions over a voiced call in addition to providing verbal answers over a voiced call.

As to claims 2, Raiyani et al. show providing a first verbal question and awaiting a verbal answer to be received prior to providing a second verbal answer (Fig. 18).

As to claim 3, Raiyani et al. show second verbal question being dependent upon verbal answer received for the first verbal question (Fig. 16 no.1630).

As to claim 4, Raiyani et al. show generating a suggestion based on the verbal answer to the first and second verbal questions and providing suggestion over the voiced call to the user (Fig. 16 no.1650).

As to claim 5, Owners.com shows providing the listing data on a web page.

As to claim 6, Raiyani et al. show providing verbal information based on the listing data from the voice services node over a voiced call (paragraph 82).

As to claims 7, 8, 17 and 18, Raiyani et al. show voiced call being landline and wireless (paragraph 141).

As to claim 9, Owners.com shows accessing a listing service database based on the provided information and including an identifier of real estate ("Listing ID").

As to claim 10, Owners.com shows receiving verbal answers (*interpreted to be answers composed of words*) to the set of verbal questions (*the user makes the appropriate selections regarding his property from the menu*) from real estate seller (*user*), interpreting the received answers to produce listing data, converting the listing data into verbal listing information and providing verbal listing information to the user.

However, Owners.com does not expressly show receiving nor providing verbal information to a voice service node. Raiyani et al. show providing question data to a voice service node (paragraph 110).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Owners.com and incorporate the voice feature shown by Raiyani et al. because it would allow users with eye disability to use the method thus increasing the user base and potential revenue.

As to claim 11, Owners.com shows providing verbal questions about a real estate listing to the user (*where question data is interpreted to be information such as location and type of property and verbal questions are interpreted to be questions composed of words*); receiving verbal answers to the set of verbal questions (*the user makes the appropriate selections from the menu*) from real estate seller (*user*), interpreting the received answers to produce listing data and providing the listing data to the user.

However, Owners.com does not expressly show providing question data to a voice service node. Raiyani et al. show providing question data to a voice service node (paragraph 110).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Owners.com and incorporate the voice feature shown by Raiyani et al. because it would allow users with eye disability to use the method thus increasing the user base and potential revenue.

As to claim 12, Owners.com shows providing a verbal question about a real estate listing in response to receiving a verbal question from user and is based on the question (*where the entry for city would be dependent on the state selected*).

As to claim 13, Owners.com shows receiving and interpreting a verbal question from user and providing listing information based on the information from the user. However, Owners.com does not expressly show receiving and providing information to a voice services node. Raiyani et al. show providing question data to a voice service node (paragraph 110).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Owners.com and incorporate the voice feature shown by Raiyani et al. because it would allow users with eye disability to use the method thus increasing the user base and potential revenue.

As to claim 14, Owners.com shows receiving the verbal question from user while verbal listing information is being provided to user.

As to claim 15, Raiyani et al. show receiving information from a real estate seller through a web page and storing the information in preparation for receiving queries (paragraph 6).

As to claim 16, Raiyani et al. show receiving information over a voiced call and storing the information for future retrieval by a user (paragraph 113).

As to claims 19 and 20, Owners.com shows query for listing data obtaining data relative to the identified piece of real estate.

As to claim 21, Raiyani et al. show providing verbal directions to the location of product for sale (paragraph 8).

As to claims 25 and 27, Owners.com shows question data to a real estate seller and verbal answers from the real estate seller and interpreting the answers to produce answer data.

Raiyani et al. show a voice services node (paragraph 10); a listing database (paragraph 6); a network-based computer that provides data to voice services node, receives data from the voice services node and stores data in user accessible database (paragraph 89).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Owners.com and incorporate the voice feature shown by Raiyani et al. because it would allow users with eye disability to use the method thus increasing the user base and potential revenue.

As to claims 26 and 28, Raiyani et al. show voice services node receiving verbal information (paragraph 10), interpreting verbal information to produce query data (Fig. 14), providing verbal information to user based on listing data to the voice services node (Fig. 14).

Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owners.com (see PTO-892 U) in view of official notice.

As to claim 22, Owners.com does not expressly show interpreting verbal information to initiate automated scheduling of an appointment. Examiner takes official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify

Owners.com and incorporate a scheduling feature because it would enhance the user experience by providing the user convenience of making appointments to properties he or she is interested in.

As to claim 23, Owners.com does not expressly show determining location of user. Examiner takes official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Owners.com and incorporate user location feature because it would make it easier to provide directions to the user, if the user does not know his or her location.

As to claim 24, Owners.com does not expressly show providing visual listing information. Examiner takes official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Owners.com and include visual listing information and directions because it would enhance the user experience.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Florance et al. US 2002/0065739 A1 - System and method for collection, distribution, and use of information in connection with commercial real estate

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VERN CUMARASEGARAN whose telephone number is

(571)270-3273. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

vc

/John G. Weiss/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3629